

In the Claims:

Please add new claims 68-89. All pending claims are re-produced below.

1. (Previously presented) A method for displaying a plurality of related SMS (Short Message Service) messages comprising:

reviewing a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party;
determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages also associated with a second party; and
outputting the SMS message thread.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a reply message.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a message other than a reply message.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:
searching the one or more SMS messages based on a first identifier associated with the second party.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the first identifier comprises one from the group of a telephone number and an SMS address.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
storing the plurality of SMS messages associated with the first party in a persistent storage device.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a sender of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the receiver.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first party is a receiver of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the sender.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - receiving a current SMS message from the second party; and
 - determining whether to thread the current message into the SMS message thread.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:
 - applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages, and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:
 - applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the non-threaded party comprises a broadcasting party.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining whether to thread comprises:
 - applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to verify the second party as a threaded party.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party matches an entry in a phone book.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the correlating further

comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS messages from being threaded.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the correlating further comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in which SMS messages are threaded.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the outputting the SMS message thread comprises:

outputting the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a threaded format.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
displaying an icon in the SMS application to represent an SMS message thread.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the SMS application is a network browser.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein outputting further comprises:

formatting messages originated by the first party in a first display format; and
formatting messages originated by the second party in a second display format.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
displaying the SMS messages.

23. (Previously presented) A method for displaying a plurality of related messages in a receiving apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving a current message in the receiving apparatus from a sending apparatus,
the receiving and sending apparatuses having different sending and

receiving messaging applications;
determining whether to thread the current message into a message thread
comprising messages between the sending and receiving apparatuses; and
displaying the message thread in the receiving message application.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of the sending and receiving applications comprises an instant messaging application.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein one of the plurality of messages are transported in a protocol that does not correlate messages.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the unique identifier is native to the protocol.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of SMS (Short Message Service) messages.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) messages.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the message thread comprises a plurality of e-mail messages.

30. (Previously presented) A device for displaying a plurality of related SMS (Short Message Service) messages, comprising:

a SMS message database to store a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party; and

a threading module, coupled in communication with the SMS message database, the threading module determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages associated with a second party, and to output the SMS message thread.

31. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein one of the second party SMS messages comprises a reply message.

32. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein one of the second party SMS messages comprises a message other than a reply message.

33. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module searches an SMS message database based on a first identifier associated with the second party.

34. (Previously presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.

35. (Previously presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the first identifier comprises an SMS address.

36. (Previously presented) The device of claim 33, wherein the threading module retrieves a second identification for the second party, wherein the SMS message thread comprises SMS messages associated with both the first and second identifications.

37. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the first party is a sender of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the receiver.

38. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the first party is a receiver of one of the second party SMS messages and the second party is the sender.

39. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module receives a current SMS message from the second party, and determines whether to thread the current message into the SMS message thread.

40. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.

41. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.

42. (Previously presented) The device of claim 39, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to apply a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to verify the second party as a threaded party.

43. (Previously presented) The device of claim 40, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party matches an entry in a phone book.

44. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS messages from being threaded.

45. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module further comprises a threading engine to applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in which SMS messages are threaded.

46. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, wherein the threading module outputs the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a threaded format.

47. (Previously presented) The device of claim 46, further comprising:
the SMS application to display an icon to represent a threaded SMS.

48. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, further comprising:
a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to display the SMS messages.

49. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, further comprising:
a messaging device to display the SMS messages.

50. (Previously presented) The device of claim 30, further comprising:
a mobile device to display the SMS messages.
51. (Previously presented) A system for exchanging a plurality of SMS (Short Message Service) messages between a first device and a second device, comprising:
the first device for sending a current SMS message to a second device, and
determining whether to thread the current SMS message into a first SMS message thread according to outgoing SMS message rules; and
the second device for receiving the current SMS message, and threading the current SMS message into a second SMS message thread according to incoming SMS message rules.
52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the outgoing SMS message rules include a rule that generates a thread responsive to receiving a reply message to the current message.
53. (Previously presented) A computer product, comprising:
a computer-readable medium having computer program instructions and data embodied thereon for displaying a plurality of related SMS (short message service), comprising:
reviewing a plurality of SMS messages associated with a first party;
determining whether to thread one or more SMS messages from the plurality of SMS messages into an SMS message thread, the one or more SMS messages associated with a second party; and
outputting the SMS message thread.
54. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a reply message that has yet to be transmitted.
55. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein at least one of the SMS messages associated with the second party comprises a message other than a reply message.

56. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the identifying comprises:

searching the one or more SMS messages based on a first identifier associated with the second party.

57. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 56, wherein the first identifier comprises a telephone number.

58. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 56, wherein the first identifier comprises an SMS address.

59. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, further comprising: retrieving a second identification for the second party, wherein the SMS message thread comprises SMS messages associated with both the first and second identifications.

60. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises: applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to incoming SMS messages, and a set of outgoing SMS message rules to outgoing SMS messages.

61. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises: applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to prevent threading if the second party is a non-threaded party.

62. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises: applying a set of incoming SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of incoming SMS message rules including a rule to verify the second party as a threaded party.

63. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 62, wherein the verification rule verifies the second party if the second party's unique identification matches an entry in a phone book.

64. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules comprises a rule to prevent expired SMS messages from being threaded.

65. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the determining whether to thread further comprises:

applying a set of SMS message rules to define thread characteristics, wherein the set of SMS message rules including a rule to define the order in which SMS messages are threaded.

66. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 53, wherein the outputting the SMS message thread comprises:

outputting the SMS message thread to an SMS application for display in a threaded format.

67. (Previously presented) The computer product of claim 66, further comprising: displaying an icon in the SMS application to represent a threaded SMS.

68. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving and threading at least one MMS message.

69. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving and threading at least one EMS message.

70. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving and threading at least one message using a data protocol capable of encapsulating messages for transport between networked devices.

71. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to thread is performed without user input.

72. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether to thread is performed in accordance with one or more threading rules.

73. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein determining whether to thread is performed without user input.

74. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein determining whether to thread is performed in accordance with one or more threading rules.

75. (New) The device of claim 30, further comprising receiving and threading at least one MMS message.

76. (New) The device of claim 30, further comprising receiving and threading at least one EMS message.

77. (New) The device of claim 30, further comprising receiving and threading at least one message using a data protocol capable of encapsulating messages for transport between networked devices.

78. (New) The device of claim 30, wherein determining whether to thread is performed without user input.

79. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein determining whether to thread is performed in accordance with one or more threading rules.

80. (New) The computer program product of claim 53, further comprising receiving and threading at least one MMS message.

81. (New) The computer program product of claim 53, further comprising receiving and threading at least one EMS message.

82. (New) The computer program product of claim 53, further comprising receiving and threading at least one message using a data protocol capable of encapsulating messages for transport between networked devices.

83. (New) The computer program product of claim 53, wherein determining whether to thread is performed without user input.

84. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein determining whether to thread is performed in accordance with one or more threading rules.

85. (New) A method for displaying a plurality of related messages on a handheld device, comprising:

- reviewing a plurality of messages received by the handheld device and associated with a first party;
- determining whether to thread one or more messages from the plurality of messages into an message thread, the one or more messages also associated with a second party; and
- outputting the message thread.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising receiving and threading at least one MMS message.

87. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising receiving and threading at least one EMS message.

88. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein determining whether to thread is performed without user input.

89. (New) The method of claim 85, wherein determining whether to thread is performed in accordance with one or more threading rules.